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DEPT PLS PASS EC COLLECTIVE
DEPT FOR ARA, AF/AS H. COHEN, AND AF/S R. PERITO

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, SF, MX, US
SUBJECT: NELSON MANDELA'S COMMENTS ON SANCTIONS IN
- SOUTH AFRICA

REF: MEXICO 17827

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT

2. NELSON MANDELA MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA TO A
STANDING-ROOM AUDIENCE YESTERDAY EVENING AT THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY URGING MEXICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO
MAINTAIN SANCTIONS ON SOUTH AFRICA. HE ARGUED

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STRONGLY THAT THERE WAS NOW OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE IN
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
THROUGH INKAHTA HAS BEEN FINANCING BOTH DEATH SQUADS
AND VIOLENT ACTIVITIES IN THE BLACK COMMUNITIES IN
THE COUNTRY.

3. AT A RECEPTION FOR THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AFTER THE
PRESENTATION, MANDELA STATED POINTEDLY TO DCM HIS
DISMAY AT U.S. ACTIONS IN DROPPING THE MAJORITY OF THE
SANCTIONS THAT HAD BEEN IMPOSED BY THE USG ON THE
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. MANDELA EXPRESSED
PARTICULAR CONCERN AT THE LACK OF PRIOR CONSULTATION
WITH THE ANC AND THE FACT THAT WE GOT SO LITTLE IN
RETURN FOR SUCH A MAJOR STEP.

4. FOLLOWING THAT CONVERSATION, DR. M. H. MOTLAMA,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 6/9/91

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MANDELA'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN AND HEAD OF WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE SOUTH AFRICAN EQUIVALENT OF OUR NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY, ARGUED THAT THE ANC WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. WAS FAVORING GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IN ITS AID PROGRAMS RATHER THAN THOSE OF THE OPPOSITION. HE CITED SEVERAL EXAMPLES AND NOTED THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE USG WAS MORE INCLINED TO BELIEVE GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ABOUT THEIR INTENTIONS THAN HARD EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY OPPOSITION GROUPS, IN PARTICULAR THE ANC. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE NOW PUBLIC INFORMATION ON INKAHTA FUNDING BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE A BASIS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF USG APPROACHES TO THE DE KLERK GOVERNMENT.

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5. MANDELA SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT THE DCM PASS THESE CONCERNS BACK TO WASHINGTON AND SAID THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY BE FOLLOWING UP TO DISCUSS THEM WITH PRESIDENT BUSH AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. DCM AGREED TO DO SO.

6. COMMENT: IN HIS PUBLIC PRESENTATION, MANDELA WAS MEASURED AND FORTHRIGHT, DEMONSTRATING GREAT POISE AND SELF-ASSURANCE. IN HIS PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH THE DCM HE WAS CLEARLY UPSET AND SOMEWHAT AGITATED. THE DCM DECLINED TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE SUBSTANCE OF MANDELA'S REMARKS WITH HIM, WHICH MANDELA AGREED WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, MANDELA DID SAY IN CLOSING THAT HE WAS NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE HEARING THE ANC HAD GOTTEN TO DATE IN WASHINGTON. NEGROPONTE.

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